

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 8-14 are pending in the present application. Claim 8 is an independent claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for noting that claim 11 would be allowable if re-written into independent format. For at least the reasons presented below, Applicants submit that all pending claims are patentable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 8, 10, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,962,133 to Ogawa (hereafter “Ogawa”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ogawa teaches a variable valve timing control device that employs a locking pin that projects from an engaging groove in the housing to contact with a protruding portion of the rotor – connecting the rotor to the housing by capturing the protruding portion between a side of the lock pin and a side of the engaging groove of the housing. (Col 2, lines 1-17, Fig. 4). As noted in Ogawa’s figures, there is no engaging cavity for the locking pin to come in contact with when projected. The lock pin resides in a wider notch within the housing and captures a protruding portion of the rotor between itself and an edge of the engaging groove. (Col. 4, lines 39-45).

Claim 8

Applicants respectfully submit that Ogawa's approach does not employ an "engaging cavity" of a type disclosed and defined in the present invention. As noted in independent claim 8, the lock pin, when projected from its housing hole "provided in the other of the first rotor and the second rotor ... thereby [abuts] on the wall of the engaging cavity." Applicants respectfully submit that the lock pin in Ogawa's housing has no counterpart cavity in the rotor specifically intended to accommodate a lock pin in this way. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Ogawa does not teach or suggest "an engaging cavity provided in one of the first rotor and the second rotor" and a lock pin "abutting on the wall of the engaging cavity" as required by independent claim 8.

Claims 10 and 13

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10 and 13 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency upon independent claim 8.

Summary

Applicants respectfully submit that Ogawa is deficient in its teachings with respect to independent claim 8 and all claims depending therefrom. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 9, 12, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that claims 9, 12, and 14 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 8. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance in the present application.

However, should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' representative, Naphtali Y. Matlis (Reg. No. 61,592) at the telephone number of the undersigned in order to discuss the application and expedite prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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